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### THE FATE OF THE "SPELLBINDER."

The St. Louis Post Dispatch, commenting on the liberal use by the national Republican committee of the advertising columns of newspapers and magazines, and on the advertising campaign of Mr. Douglas in Massachusetts, reaches the conclusion that "these advertising experiments presage the passing of the spellbinder." There is, the New York Tribune adds, room here certainly for interesting speculation. Whether the popular demand for campaign education is supplied by political advertisements or by the news and editorial comment of the press, or has lost some of its oldtime keenness, all observers notice a change in the attitude of voters. The recent campaign was in general regarded as dull. Politicians were puzzled to know what it meant. The vote showed that it did not mean any lack of interest. The people were alive to the issues, and knew what they wanted, but had no use for processions and little use for spellbinders whose stereotyped speeches they knew beforehand, though they were everywhere eager to listen to men of importance who could discuss public questions with authority. They likewise paid little attention to the conventional campaign document, but everywhere the newspaper discussion which made a real point attracted attention.

The change is the sign of a more rational attitude on the part of voters. Their political ideas are formed more as their business ideas are formed, by the sane and sober consideration of the questions involved. They read more newspapers than ever before, and, while no one newspaper exercises the authority that a few did half a century ago, those newspapers furnish the materials for independent political thinking to thousands who were formerly reached only by extraordinary stimulants to enthusiasm and political action. In many rural communities, where in former presidential campaigns torchlight processions and "spreadeagle" speeches held sway, nothing of the kind occurred this year. But the rural free delivery was taking into every farmhouse the political news and the political editorial. The voter needed no brass band to teach him that election was coming.

Parton gives a sample of political argument in 1832 in a story of a Staten island shoemaker called upon to make his first speech. He indulged in a fiery denunciation of Adams for having let the emperor of Brazil seize and hold some American war vessels, and told how when Jackson became president and demanded the ships the emperor had learned who he was and said: "I guess we'd better send those ships back right away." This crazy tale of a seizure which never occurred was a more useful campaign talk to that audience than a reasonable discussion of the issues. But nothing like it would be done today except in rare instances. The average voter knows claptrap when he sees it, and cheap and indecent campaign methods are less and less influential.

The people want, and it is to be hoped always will want, to hear senators and cabinet officers give an account of their stewardship and an outline of their proposed policies. Perhaps we may see a general revival of the old habit of joint debating, which seems to enjoy renewed favor in some states. Maybe the English habit of "heckling," which keeps candidates from talking "buncombe" and makes them face the issues about which the people are really thinking, may be naturalized here. Political discussion in some form or other which brings people and politicians into actual contact and understanding is sure to persist. But political discussion which is merely noise is likely to go out of fashion, like log cabins and hard cider, because popular intelligence has outgrown them.

### JAPAN'S NEW LOAN.

The Japanese foreign loan for \$60,000,000, now being negotiated, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent, is to be floated, it is announced, at 90 1-2 and is to constitute a second lien on Japan's customs receipts. It will be recalled that Japan mortgaged these same receipts last May in order to raise a foreign 6 per cent loan of \$50,000,000. The subscription price of the bonds that were negotiated at that time was 93 1-2, but they have since sold as low as 90.

Japan's customs revenue of late has averaged about \$7,500,000 per annum, but quite recently that government increased its customs taxes, so that the latter are now expected to yield considerably more revenue than they formerly did. This would seem to render the new loan—consideration being taken of

the high rate of interest that it is to bear and the price at which it is to be floated—a reasonably safe investment. The uncertain factor is whether the present war with Russia may not be prolonged to such an extent as seriously to cripple the volume of Japan's dutiable imports. That government has been borrowing heavily of its own people; and, as the resources of the Japanese are limited, the point may soon be reached where the consuming power of Japan in the way of imported products will be materially curtailed.

That the island empire is approaching such a contingency is indicated by its proposal to increase old and to impose new taxes for the purpose of providing for war expenses. This scheme includes the doubling of taxes on incomes and business and an increase in the land tax, in the tax on "rice-beer" and in other domestic taxes, and the imposition of taxes on inheritances, railroad tickets, freight bills, textile goods and the salt monopoly. It is impossible that the enforcement of such a wholesale plan of taxation should not constitute a serious drain on the resources of the Japanese people.

The growing need of Japan for additional financial means is apparently one reason why she is eager to bring her war with Russia to a swift conclusion. In this she is probably wise, for every day that the conflict is prolonged the heavier becomes the financial burden that her people are compelled to bear.

### PREMIUM GIVING IN TRADE.

When the president of one of the most prominent cereal manufacturing companies in the U. S. assures the secretary of the National Association of Retail Grocers that he and his company have from the outset been opposed to the giving of premiums and prizes in order to attract trade, and that his concern was really driven into the system through the acute danger of losing its position in the trade if it stayed out, it is plain enough that the whole scheme is a club that in no wise lessens the keenness of competition and one that is used by the boobies most unwillingly, says the New York Commercial.

And when again the same manufacturer assures the same grocery-trade official that he will promptly and gladly abandon the whole premium business, from top to bottom, if only "all of the manufacturers, distributors and wholesale dealers in cereal goods in the United States will do likewise," that proposition gives fresh emphasis to the fact that thousands of manufacturers and dealers in all lines of goods regard the premium system not only as wholly unnecessary, but as positively vicious in its influence and effects.

It is a chain of their own forging, however, and it is easily within their power to break the shackles, if only they will, by concerted action. Had this offer to break away from a system that imposes such an absolutely unnecessary burden on business come from an obscure quarter, it might well pass unnoticed. As it is, however, the proposition seems to hold out a hope that trade in this country may in the near future be freed of a thing that its prosecutors heartily hate but endure.

Pretty nearly everybody in the United States has figured out just how it happened that Theodore Roosevelt got so awfully many votes. But where is David Bennett Hill? When last heard from he was sitting on a public platform in West Virginia and listening to Henry G. Davis' half consciously pathetic declaration that he was the cause of all the vice presidential candidate's trouble. Since that moment he has been lost to view. Yet he is wont to be vocal on insufficient provocation. Can it be that he has sought oblivion at Esopus? Or is it the true explanation of a seeming mystery that no human being cares to know what Hill thinks about the awful slaughter of his old friend—that he has been waiting many long and weary days for an inquiry that has never come? In the old stormy—old but always young—the Irish judge said to the prisoner at the bar: "I want nothing from you but silence, and a—d little of that."

Ex-Governor Black, who, before his election to the governorship, was a practicing lawyer at Troy with a slender income, went to New York after his retirement in 1899 and built up a practice which is worth \$100,000 a year. He does not feel disposed to relinquish this to accept an \$8000 salary as a member of the cabinet. If the government expects the services of the ablest men in the cabinet, it should pay them at least \$25,000 a year, says the Ledger. A cabinet officer cannot live in Washington and entertain as he is expected to for less than this amount, and some cabinet ministers spend much more. The salaries paid to the department chiefs and president's counselors are ridiculously low.

Sir William McEwen, a professor of Glasgow university, is an authority for the view that "the quick lunch" is a health destroyer. In an address to the Charing Cross medical school of London he said that people seemed to act as though "food should be thrown into the stomach as a sandwich into the pocket." He complains that "mastication is not taught in the schools," and says it is time that "certificates should be given in schools for sound digestion. Instead of doing that we appoint royal commissions to inquire into the causes of physical deterioration of the race."

Swell Togs For Men.

# P. A. STOKES

Home of Swell Togs



## Overcoats!

Remember we are offering special values in OVERCOATS, not alone in price, but in overcoats that are "creations" from the best tailors of America. In this vast assortment of swell garments we can "fit the hard to fit," "please the hard to please," at about one-half your tailor's price.

# OVERCOATS

## \$7.50 to \$30.00

Money back if dissatisfied.

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Home of Swell Togs

# P. A. STOKES

Swell Togs For Men.

### J. B. BLOOMINGDALE DEAD.

Prominent Retail Merchant and Public Citizen.

New York, Nov. 22.—Joseph B. Bloomingdale, a well-known dry-goods merchant and capitalist, who retired from active business some time ago, is dead at his home here from heart affection. He went west in his youth and began business in Leavenworth, Kas., going from there to California, in 1866. He was prominently identified with numerous Hebrew educational and financial institutions.

### Return from El Paso.

San Francisco, Nov. 22.—A party of prominent Oregonians arrived today from the national irrigation congress held recently at El Paso. Included in the number were: E. L. Smith, J. M. Williamson, E. M. Brannick, A. King Wilson, secretary of the Oregon association; A. H. Devers, Judge S. A. Lowell and Tom Richardson.

### Prince Liner is Floated.

New York, Nov. 22.—After lying fast in the sand off Long Island shore since early Sunday, the Prince line affidavits that she resided on certain at high tide tonight. According to marine observers, the liner was not damaged to any great extent. It is thought she will proceed immediately to her dock at Brooklyn.

### Farmer Burns Beats Barr.

Davenport, Ia., Nov. 22.—Farmer Burns of Big Rock, Ia., and Jim Parr, of London, wrestled tonight. Burns won the first fall in 21 minutes and the second in 19 minutes.

### Would Seem That Way.

It strikes an American as a useless precaution to send a Russian dispatch in cipher.—Kansas City Times.

Save the La Imperial band and get the diamond stud.

Hansen & McCanna, who occupy the shop formerly used by T. S. Simpson, adjoining the city water office, are prepared to do all kinds of sign and carriage painting. They will make a specialty of work of this class and guarantee satisfaction.

Our all-wool patterns in fall suitings and overcoatings include a wide range of beautiful things. That is the correct word—beautiful. We doubt if any other display can be found containing so many styles to which the word in its truest sense may be so fittingly applied. Do not fail to call on Dickinson & Allen, 435 Commercial street, and see the many hundreds of patterns for yourself.

The original Jno. A. Moler has opened one of his famous barber colleges at 644 Clay street, San Francisco. Special inducements this month; positions guaranteed; tuition earned while learning. Write correct number, 644 Clay street, San Francisco.

### CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT.

Reopened Under New Management. John Blasch has leased the California Restaurant and Oyster House and is now prepared to serve the public. The best oysters and meals in the city. Family trade supplied. Good cooks, polite waiters and prompt service.

## The STAR THEATER

ASTORIA'S FASHIONABLE VAUDEVILLE HOUSE IN CONNECTION WITH STAR AND ARCADE THEATERS OF PORTLAND " " " "

Change of Program Monday. Change of Acts Thursdays

MATINEE DAILY AT 2.45 P. M.

MONSTER BILL Week Beginning MONDAY MATINEE, NOV. 21

Feature act YALE DUO.

Club juggler, supreme marvels of manipulation and dexterity.

MUSICAL HARTS.

America's foremost refined musical artists.

RICHARD BURTON

Australian Descriptive Vocalist.

CARTER AND MENDEL

Two versatile comedians.

MADAMOISELLE VITA

Wire Expert.

EDUARD SCOTT,

Astoria's Favorite Baritone

Singer.

"DEAR OLD ILLINOIS."

EDISON'S PROJECTOSCOPE.

Depicting recent events by life motion pictures.

Admission 10 cents to any seat.

### Next Time

You need a pair of Men's, Women's or Children's

## SHOES

Honest, Durable Shoes)

For less money than you have been paying try

## S. A. GIMRE

543-545 Bond St.

### Our Drugs Are Pure

We compound prescriptions with great care from a complete stock of fresh and pure drugs. We also sell all the standard home remedies and all kinds of Proprietary Articles, Combs, Brushes, Razors, Soaps, all kinds of Toilet Articles, Etc.

We Charge no Fancy Prices.

Corner of Fourteenth and Commercial Street Hart's Drug Store

## ASTORIA IRON WORKS

JOHN FOX, Pres. and Supt. A. L. FOX, Vice President, F. L. BISHOP, Secretary. ASTORIA SAVINGS BANK, Treas.

Designers and Manufacturers of THE LATEST IMPROVED

CANNING MACHINERY, MARINE ENGINES AND BOILERS. COMPLETE CANNERY OUTFITS FURNISHED.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Foot of Fourth Street, ASTORIA, OREGON.